

WAGGING TAILS

Issue 15

Winter 1999

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION Officers and Committee Members

Patron - Lady Crathorne

President - Mr. G Lancaster

Chairman - Mr. P Forster

Honorary Secretary - Mrs. A Forster

Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7HA

Tel: 01538 383946



Honorary Treasurer - Mrs. E. Whiting

Vice-Chairman - Mr. G. Whiting

Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire WF14 9DS

Tel: 01924 490741

COMMITTEE

Mrs. B M Adams (Litter Recorder)

30 Yewdale Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8NE Tel: 01423 885471

Mrs. S Bunting

Kind Care Boarding Kennels, Bothalhaugh, Morpeth, NE61 8AQ Tel: 01670 513963

Mrs. E Geoghegan

209 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, Nr Preston, Lancashire PR4 6AT Tel: 01772 812709

Mr. S Jubb & Mrs. K Jubb

Thistledown House, 136 Loscoe Denby Lane, Denby Village, DE5 8PP Tel: 01773 741501

Mrs. D Jury

103 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, S42 5NX Tel: 01246 853575

Mr. J R Kitching

Clowbeck Boarding Kennels, Sandhills Farm, Crathorne, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 0AD Tel:
01642 780362

Mr. D Orme & Mrs. V Orme

3 Ivy Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PE Tel: 01625 874826

Mrs. K Trevor

120 Cross Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7BY Tel: 01159 939134

Mrs. S J Wells

Ravensdale, 2 Albert Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5HT Tel: 01625 522537

Mrs. D White

Woodhouse Cottage, Birkin, North Yorkshire WF11 9LS Tel: 01757 228268

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your subscriptions for 2000 are now due. Many of you have them paid directly through your bank. To those, could I ask that you check your bank statements and make sure that it has been correctly paid to N.E.F.R.A. and also make sure that it is only paid once. In my few years as treasurer, I have been amazed at the number of ways the banks can get things wrong and with the Y2K 'bug' - well!!!!!!

If you pay by cheque, please make sure that these reach me as early as possible in the New Year. Try and avoid passing them on through a third party - this puts pressure on your friend to remember to pass them on to me, particular as they will usually be seeing me at a busy committee meeting or event. The final date for payment of subscriptions as set out in the Constitution is 28th February and I will have to send reminders out to all you late payers around that time. This takes my time and costs the Association money!

The rates of subscriptions are held as follows:

- Single - £ 5.00 per annum
- Joint - £ 8.00 per annum
- Senior citizens, gamekeepers or juniors - £ 3.00 per annum

Thank you for your help in the above matter.

Elaine Whiting (Hon. Treasurer)
225, Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 9DS
Tel. 01924 490741

(P. S. If you require it, there is a standing order form in the centre of this newsletter - but please note this will only be in effect from NEXT year so a cheque will be required for this year's subscription).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the fifth Annual General Meeting of the Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association to be held on Sunday, March 5th 2000 at the Old Golf House Hotel, New Hey Road, Outlane, near Huddersfield (Tel No 01422 379311) at 11.00 a.m.

The following Officials and Committee are due to retire this year and are willing to stand for re-election:

Treasurer Mrs. E. M. C. Whiting

Committee Mrs. B. Adams
Mr. D. Orme
Mrs. K. Trevor
Mrs. D. White

Nominations for the above posts along with the newly created post of Working Secretary should be received in writing by the Secretary from the proposer, together with a letter from the seconder and written agreement from the proposed person by 5th February 2000. Both the proposed person and the proposer or seconder should be in attendance at the Annual General Meeting and be prepared to address the meeting.

Propositions for inclusion on the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting are also invited and should be received by the Secretary no later than 5th February 2000. Only items on the Agenda can be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

Lunches and bar snacks will be available after the meeting. Please order on arrival.

DIRECTIONS TO THE VENUE: The Hotel is situated close to the M62. From the West, leave the motorway at junction 23 (you will see the hotel on your left just before the junction). Take the A640 towards Rochdale, the hotel is on your left. From the East, leave the motorway at Junction 24 (Note junction 23 is restricted and will involve you in a 20 mile detour!) Again head for the A640 towards Rochdale, via the A643.

Letter from Mrs K. Perry - I read with interest the question about whether champion dogs should be entries at Open Shows. My feelings are these:-

I enjoy showing my dogs and whilst I like to win (who doesn't) I am happy to be placed against a champion. Most of us have little chance of winning classes at championship shows, the competition is too fierce, but at an open show the situation is different. There is always a possibility that the judge may prefer your dog on the day - it does happen and it must be a great feeling when it does. Probably many of you like me have won your class and been awarded BOB as a stand alone. There is no pleasure in this for the handler or the dog (Flatcoats love to be with other Flatcoats). How much better to be 2nd or 3rd placed with some really good quality dogs.

From the other side, I should imagine champion dogs need practice too (I may find out some day) and a championship show is not really the place to do this and neither realistically is a ring craft class.

So I for one am happy to find a champion competing at an Open Show. Hopefully the handler will prove a good loser to ----- well I can dream!!!!!!

GUIDELINES FOR THE LITTER RECORDING SERVICE

A reminder that our litter recorder is Mrs. Brenda Adams (tel. No. 01423 885471) whom we are sure is known to many of you. Please let her know if you are expecting a litter in order that she can put you on her list and help to match your puppies with new owners. The following points are general guidelines for using the service which we hope will be of use to breeders and those of you looking for a puppy alike.

1. Priority will be given to Members of the Association who have puppies available.
2. New owners should be given advice and support together with a copy of the Code of Ethics of the Association.
3. Vendors must undertake to make all reasonable enquiries regarding the prospective homes and their suitability. The Secretary or Committee Member cannot enquire in-depth into each prospective home, they can only advise.
4. Vendors must realise that whilst the Association will help as much as possible it is unreasonable to expect puppies to be homed in large numbers on a regular basis. Vendors must make every effort to home puppies themselves, preferably not having litters until they have sufficient enquiries.

When a litter has been sold, please notify the Litter Recorder so that your name can be removed from the 'puppies available' list so preventing disappointment to prospective new owners.

GUNDOG TRAINING - In the New Year, Liz Geoghegan will be circulating those who attended the last two training mornings at Garstang with details of future training. Any other members who are interested in attending should contact Liz on 01772 812709.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

By the time you read this, the first of January will have come and gone, the Dome will have opened, the London Eye will be turning and we will have begun our journey into the twenty first Century. We have all worried about the Millennium Bug and the increased cost of celebrations. But when it comes down to it the health and happiness of our loved ones, both two and four legged, is of prime importance.

The future looks bright for NEFRA. We have a busy year ahead with events averaging out at one a month - quite an undertaking!!!! The centre piece will be the Fun Weekend in June. All details will be in the next issue of Wagging Tails. Please try to join us if not for the whole Weekend then at least for some part of it. We are having a bumper raffle draw at this event - tickets will be sent out with the next newsletter. If anyone one like to donate a prize for this draw, please let me know as soon as possible.

The next event coming up is the Health Seminar. And what could be better than having four vets to speak at such an event!! The topics covered show the benefits of alternative treatments (acupuncture, homeopathy and herbal medicine), a talk on orthopaedics and hips and, always useful for the Flatcoat owner, some tips on first aid.

1999 has been another successful year for NEFRA. We have had our 500th member. Quite a long way from the Inaugural Meeting at Harewood in April 1994 with 55 founder members present. So much for those who said "it will never last". We have been building our programme of events steadily and hope you will agree we now have something for everyone. If you can think of anything else, please let me know.

The show in November was again well attended. This year we have got photographic evidence of the event and all you first place winners can have a copy of the photograph taken of you and your dog for just 50p. Please let me know if you would like one.

The calendars sold in aid of Dogs for the Disabled should enable us to make a donation in excess of £300. If you were expecting one of these in your Christmas stocking, but were not lucky enough to get one we still have a very limited number for sale at £4.50.

On a lighter note, I was recently told that I have a very frightening face - no I am not going to tell you who said it! Let me assure you that I am as much a bag of nerves inside as the rest of you so do not be frightened, I won't bite. Come and talk!

On behalf of all the Officers and Committee may I hope you all had a very happy Christmas and wish you a prosperous New Year with great success in all your dog activities.

With kind regards.....Audrey

OPEN SHOW - 7th NOVEMBER 1999

DOGS - Judge - Mrs. Karen Joyce (Stranfaer) I would like to thank the committee for organising such a well run show and all the exhibitors for bringing their dogs under me. I had a lovely entry and a truly memorable day - thank-you.

Cl. 1 Minor Puppy Dog (4,1) - 1st Bellamy's Sumskin Parsley in Lathkill - 8 mth liver, nicely moulded head, correct eye, good reach of neck, level topline which he held on the move, correct tailset and good bend of stifle. 2nd Forster's Wizardwood Celtic Swing - almost 9mths, good bone and tight feet, nice head with dark eye, well set shoulders and a good front, less settled than 1 on the move. 3rd Slack's Branchalwood Mactavish **Cl. 2** Puppy Dog (6,2) - 1st W. Celtic Swing, 2nd Smith's Pendlewyth Pedlar - 9mths and a big boy, well coated, good reach of neck and level topline with good bend of stifle. 3rd B. Mactavish Res. Pilling & Whitehead's Llecan Saxon **Cl. 3** Junior Dog (10,1) - 1st Colson's Windyhollows Tumbling Ted (RBIS, Best liver) - 15mths liver, well muscled with good bone and nice tight feet. Typical head, good reach of neck, nice front, correct tailset and level topline on the move, moved with drive. 2nd Whiting's Spenbeck Zazu - a happy boy, 16 mths old. Melting expression, dark eye, good reach of neck, nice front, good bend of stifle, moved well when settled. 3rd Miller's Duntonwood Mr Softee for Keepersend, Res. Showell's Shierdale Power of Magic for Cleovine **Cl. 4** Special Yearling Dog (9,1) - 1st Burroughs' Elmstock Midnight Legend at Rokaness - 19mths well coated with the trimmings. Good profile with racy outline, nicely moulded head and dark eye, good reach of neck and correct lay of shoulders, level topline on the move, well balanced. 2nd S. Zazu, 3rd Saville & Phillips' The Sorcerers Apprentice from Jaeva, Res. Eggington's Pajanbeck Prince of Thieves **Cl. 5** Novice Dog (5,0) - 1st S. Zazu, 2nd P. Prince of Thieves - balanced dog, typical head, good reach of neck, nice front, good bone and tight feet, constantly wagging tail. 3rd Lewins' Torwood Mannerly, Res. Whittaker's Bramatha Hot Chocolate **Cl. 6** Graduate Dog (12,1) - 1st Ladley's Eskmill Moonraker - Balanced dog with good bone. Dark eye, good reach of neck, well set shoulders, nice front, level topline held on the move, moved well. 2nd E. Midnight Legend at R., 3rd Ashcroft's Steeplehouse Gamekeeper, Res. Allen's Darillen's Wings of Song **Cl. 7** Post Graduate Dog (9,3) - 1st Malkin's Steeplehouse Ashe - Balanced with racy profile, classic head with dark eye, good reach of neck. Nice front, good bone and tight feet, good bend of stifle. 2nd Moults' Capeldewi Merman - well coated, good reach of neck, good front, balanced dog with correct turn of stifle, lost out to 1 on movement on the day. 3rd Mescus & Kitching's Clowbeck Sweeney Todd, Res. D. Wings of Song **Cl. 8** Limit Dog (8,2) - 1st Geoghegan's Hightarn Rambler by Fenfleet - Lovely profile, hard condition, nice balance. Good reach of neck and lay of shoulders, good front, well boned with tight feet, moved true and correct tail carriage. 2nd Slack's Wizardwood Orlando - dark eye, dense coat and feathering, good front, nice tight feet. Good bend of stifle, level topline and correct tail carriage on the move. 3rd D. Wings of Song, Res. Churchard's Cleovine Water Wagtail **Cl. 9** Open Dog (9,3) - 1st Townsend's Steeplehouse Chipper (BIS) - super dog in profile, so well balanced in good coat with trimmings, classic head, dark eye, good reach of neck, good lay of shoulders, well boned with tight feet, moved and showed well. 2nd Eggington's Riversflight Marling to

Pajanbeck - unfortunate to come up against 1 on the day, lovely head with gentle expression, dark eye. Good bone and nice tight feet, good bend of stifle, level topline with correct tailset. Racy outline. 3rd W. Orlando, Res. Hughes' Heronsflight Haste **Cl. 10** Veteran Dog (4,2) - 1st Bellamy's Falconcliffe Pageant - 7½ yrs. Racy outline, dark eye, good reach of neck, good bend of stifle, level topline and good tail carriage on the move, moved with drive and enthusiasm. 2nd Whiting's Mirfield Maximillian of Spenbeck - 10½ yrs old, super coat very little trace of grey, nice head with dark eye, level topline with good tail carriage on the move. **Cl. 11** Special Liver Dog (4,1) - 1st W. Tumbling Ted, 2nd Hargreaves' Wolfhill Touch of Guinness - well coated dog with good bone, tight feet and good bend of stifle, correct tailset and level topline on the move. 3rd B. Hot Chocolate

BITCHES - Judge - Mr. Chris Atkinson (Seganti) My thanks to NEFRA for the opportunity to judge bitches at your Open Show. The warm and friendly welcome from the Officials and committee continued throughout the day and what was most pleasing was the generous applause each and every class winner received from the ringside - whether or not they agreed with the placings! Long may it continue.

I thought there were a good number of very promising youngsters on show. Unfortunately as in a number of breeds movement can be a problem and finding type with soundness at times was not easy. Judging is about compromising and it all made for a compelling and enjoyable day. Presentation was excellent.

Baiting - Yes it can help "show" your dog but please don't push your dog backwards thus stuffing the neck into the shoulders and thereby spoiling the lovely flowing outline of the Flatcoat.

It was a pleasure to judge jointly with Mrs Karen Joyce and we were in full agreement with all the major awards. A satisfying end to a grand day. Thank you.

Cl. 12 - Minor Puppy Bitch (11,2) - 1st Jury's Bel Fire at Torwood - Very sound to go over with correct texture of coat. Pleased in head and eye, she has a lovely front assembly which gives her good extension, moves a touch close behind but has width in quarters and well set hocks and I am sure will strengthen with age. A most promising bitch which went on to BPIS. 2nd Collins' Wizardwood Celtic Chimes 3rd Street's Branchalwood Niceilidh, Res. Thornton's Whittersbeck Aquarius **Cl. 13** - Puppy Bitch (10,1) - 1st Bunting's Mossdew Black Satin - Gives a clean outline both standing and on the move covering her ground well. Nice amount of bone with tight feet. Needs to body up but is OK for age. A dark eye with correct shape gave a pleasing expression. 2nd Green's Verdant Mint Crisp, 3rd B. Niceilidh, Res. Green's Verdant Orange Cream **Cl. 14** - Junior Bitch (13,2) Very close decision here, pleased to see they were litter sisters. The deciding factor being when stood Nymph spoiled her outline by insisting on bringing her quarters that little too far under. It did not affect her movement as both moved exceptionally well. 1st Donnelly's Eskmill Nemesis - Lovely headpiece, clean skull, flowing neckline through well laid shoulders, firm backline to super quarters and lashing tail. 2nd Matthews' Eskmill Nymph 3rd Colson's Windyhollows Nelly Moser, Res V. Mint Crisp **Cl. 15** - Special Yearling Bitch (12,3) - 1st E. Nemesis 2nd Brook's Gayplume Pretty Smart of Culmquill 3rd Brooks' Steelriver Mystic Rythms of Castlerock, Res. Walker's Spenbeck Debutante

CL.16 - Novice Bitch (9,2) - 1st E. Nymph, 2nd S. Mystic Rhythms of C. 3rd Eggington's Pajanbeck Born Free Res. Fox's Wistosa Sings the Blues CL. 17 - Graduate Bitch (14,3) 1st Garnett's Riberot Black Vanilla A very sound and honest bitch, she is balanced all through with no exaggerations, well ribbed up with depth of body. Tail nicely off back and used correctly, she has good bone and feet. Gives a positive action and shown to advantage in a very mixed class (RBB) 2nd E. Nemesis 3rd Matthews' Eskmill Moondance Res. Watson's Rainy Days and Sundays CL. 18 - Post Graduate Bitch (11,2) - 1st Watson's Here Comes the Rain Medium size, shows well, is nicely constructed throughout with a stylish outline. Her profile movement and front action coming towards is very good. She has well angulated quarters. I would prefer her more muscled up which I am sure would help her rear movement which was disappointing. Won the class on overall make and shape. 2nd Bunting's Mossdew Black Magic 3rd Walker's Biddick Black Pearl Res. Barnett's Steeplehouse Tess CL. 19 - Limit Bitch (9,1) - 1st Brook's Gayplume Dream Along of Culmquill - Not yet fully mature but she is very much in proportion. Beautiful headpiece, clean cut with a dark almond eye set correctly giving a true expression. Good straight bone down to neat feet. Well ribbed with strength over loin. 2nd Colson's Windyhollows In the Mood 3rd Wells' Gilduffe Irish Mist Res. Rees' Verdant Treacle Toffee CL. 20 - Open Bitch (9,4) - 1st Colson's Windyhollows Gypsy Moth Shows and moves to advantage but the extra weight on her shoulders just pegged her back. I liked size and construction. Very pleasing in head and eye, definitely Flatcoat with quality bone, she is well bodied, has level backline and sound quarters. 2nd Showell's Shargleam Reflection of Cleovine 3rd Miller's Keepersend Oh So Smart, Res. Jubb's Shargleam Blue Teal CL. 21 - Veteran Bitch (8,1) - 1st Watson's Torwood Bizzie Bee (BBIS) - She has a good action covering a lot of ground, getting hind legs well under body to drive off. Nothing to hide in construction. Prefer a slightly more almond shape to eye but she has a feminine headpiece and kind expression. Has forechest and clean lay of shoulder giving good length of neck. Well ribbed without being overdone, width in quarters with good angulation. Changed handler for the challenge and still showed well. 2nd V. Treacle Toffee, 3rd Colson's Windyhollows Mirage, Res. Carroll & Ryder's Wizardwood Stormy Water at Jaskar CL. 22 - Special Liver Bitch (4,0) - 1st W. Nelly Moser - Third in a strong Junior class. Stands up on her toes, sound to go over, very good first and second thigh. Well coupled with good body proportions. 2nd Showell's Windyhollows Foxglove, 3rd Whittaker's Bramatha Beat the Blues Res. Long's Chewy's Chocolate Chip

Class 23 - Brace (judged jointly) - 1st Kennedy, 2nd Tate, 3rd Whittaker

Mrs Joyce and I were delighted to award BIS to Townsend's Steeplehouse Chipper, RBIS to the quality young liver dog of Colson's Windyhollows Tumbling Ted and BPIS Jury's Bel Fire at Torwood finishing a most enjoyable day in good company.

JUNIOR HANDLING - judged by SAMANTHA MOULT

Ages 6-11 - 1st Lucy Tate, 2nd Nicola Lockett, 3rd Joseph Tate, 4th Sally Pilling.
Ages 12-16 - 1st Vicky Eggington, 2nd Alison Collins, 3rd Merrisa Pilling, 4th Sally Damms.

FUNDAY - 3rd OCTOBER 1999 from Susan Brandreth

We were greeted on our arrival at Woodford Village Hall by a sea of 'wagging tails' all standing patiently by owners waiting for the first speaker to begin. Denis Orme welcomed everyone and outlined the day's programme before handing over to Sally Collins who gave an interesting and informative talk on 'clicker' training. The opportunity for a more in depth session was offered by Sally for a later date.

Audrey Forster, assisted by Val Orme and Penny, took centre stage next with an excellent demonstration on trimming flatcoats. There were a lot of good tips in this session. I wish all our dogs were such patient models as Penny.

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Tests started immediately after this with a good number of entries. The dogs were eager to get outside and do something a little more exciting than watching humans talk about them. The results of the tests were 14 bronze passes, 11 silver and 1 gold. The examiner was most impressed by the high standards of all entries.

The main event of the afternoon was the Doggy Sports Day. This was great fun and just proved what a fit, athletic and sporting lot we flatcoat owners are - well try to be! Victims, sorry entrants, were divided up into 4 teams (red, blue, yellow and green) and enjoyed such activities as obstacle, egg and spoon, potato and duck races and finally a knock out competition. Results were: 1st yellow, 2nd green, 3rd red and 4th blue.

Liz Geoghegan, nobly helped by Stephen Jubb throwing dummies, organised a very successful scurry which dogs and owners enjoyed enormously although it was pouring with rain for much of the time.

We all tried our hand at various written competitions only to realise that our dogs are obviously more intelligent than we are! One of the competitions included pictures of a number of committee members in childhood - we then had to guess who they were. This caused much discussion and amusement!

Towards the end of the afternoon prizes were distributed and the raffle drawn. Both dogs and owners were delighted with their awards. The dogs couldn't wait to nibble their treats (and some of the other dogs' treats too) after all their hard work.

Over 90 people attended the day which, we all agree, was a huge success. The eats and drinks on sale were much appreciated. The raffle did extremely well as did the sale of flatcoat products. Some owners are now eagerly awaiting a memory in pictures of the day from photographer Jo Prestwich.

The hall itself was a good venue and the surrounding field proved a big success with the dogs (particularly the lovely puddle created by the torrential rain). The British weather let us down but as usual everyone's spirits including the dogs remained high. We all look forward to the Funday Weekend in 2000.

A LIMP WITH A HAPPY ENDING Submitted by Mrs. S. Collins

In October 1997 Tilly, my then seven year old Flatcoat, developed a limp; it came on suddenly and, thinking she had pulled a muscle, we rested her for about a week. After a week and still limping we took her to the vets where he gave her steroids, told us to keep her on a lead and that if it hadn't improved after a while he would X-ray her leg and shoulder. Tilly ended up having two lots of X-rays, one in the November and again in March 1998 because although the steroids helped slightly we felt they were actually hiding the cause of the limp. The vet warned us that Tilly may have the dreaded bone cancer but nothing showed on any of the X-rays. It wasn't until we went on a NEFRA training day and asked Peter Forster if he would mind having a look at Tilly that I was given some hope that Tilly may be alright. She had a lot of muscle wastage and was limping badly, dropping on her right shoulder when she moved; Peter asked to see the X-rays and, after seeing them, offered to use acupuncture and laser treatment to try and help her. He also advised exercise, the opposite to what our vet had advised, so we started swimming her at a local equine swimming pool.

The acupuncture is incredible and we can't thank Audrey and Peter enough; Tilly started by having it once a week, then every fortnight, then once a month. She now goes when we feel she needs a top up. Peter warned us that it wasn't a miracle cure and the effect wouldn't be instant, but from early in her treatment it was obvious that Tilly was gaining a lot of relief. She goes into the room for the acupuncture off the lead and wagging her tail, greeting Peter like a long lost friend, she then stands still while the needles are inserted and has the laser treatment. After about twenty minutes Peter tests the needles to see if any of them are ready to come out, invariably Tilly 'keeps' some of the needles but they always come out an hour or so later (I always hope we never get stopped by the police on the way home with our porcupine dog).

Tilly leads a normal life now, I have even entered her in some working tests; she still goes swimming, even her friends join her just for the fun of it (Tilly's Swimming Club on Wednesday nights in the summer). She has normal exercise with the younger dogs and she was 10 in November. We always expect the worse when our dogs suddenly develop something wrong, but it needn't be so, Tilly's experience is definitely of 'a limp with a happy ending'.

Health Seminar - Included in our Health Seminar on 20th February to be held at Kirk Deighton near Whetherby will be a talk and demonstration of acupuncture given by Mr. Peter Forster. (Entry form for seminar in centre of this newsletter).

Our Flatcoats.....Mrs. Kate Perry

In 1971 we purchased our first Flatcoated Retriever, Jess, having fallen in love with them at a local agricultural show. At 12 weeks, Jess 'fell' into a large garden pond. I was alerted to this by my mother's shouts of 'Come quickly the pup's drowning'. Rushing to her rescue I found Jess calmly swimming round and round. It took 20 minutes to persuade her to leave her watery domain. Lesson 1 - Flatcoats love water. Water to Jess meant FUN!! She paddled in drinking bowls, puddles, buckets ... our kitchen was always awash. Jess 'buried' bones in the carpet, loved everything and everyone. Her zest for life could leave us breathless. Sadly she picked up a virus at 18 months and after 3 traumatic days of fits despite heavy sedation we said goodbye to our gentle Jess.

We were heart-broken and although we considered having another flatcoat the thought of replacing her was too painful. Over the years we became involved with a Rescue organisation and fostered a number of unwanted and abused dogs, two of which came to stay. When Candy died we thought we had become a one dog family. Our other dog, Peg, had been a singleton pup of a bitch we had fostered and we did not think that she would accept a puppy. However in July 1996 I spotted an advert. A phone call and a chat to the breeder, then a 'should we shouldn't we' discussion, leading to a 'let's just go and have a look' and the inevitable 9 week old black bundle being cuddled on the way home!

We had planned to be so organised. The reality was arriving home at 8.30p.m. to an unprepared home and an even more unprepared 10 year old Peg. I can still see her now as we introduced the puppy, very much the maiden aunt, hoping 'it' would go away again. The first 3 days were hectic. Cassie tried very hard to make friends with Peg. Peg avoided her as much as possible. Then it happened. Cass crept up to a sleeping Peg who opened one eye, sighed and let the pup cuddle up. A friendship was born. Peg rediscovered play. Surprisingly gentle despite her size, she allowed Cass to win most wrestling and tug matches. As Cass grew, Peg became her protector, warning off suspicious dogs with a low rumbling growl. Cass was her pup and no one was going to hurt her.

At 20 weeks, Cass picked up an enteritis bug. It had been a hectic day for me ending with the door bell ringing just as Cass deposited her tea on my foot! This was hastily cleaned up and a few minutes later all was calm again. Our visitor was greeted by an enthusiastic Cass who appeared to be fine until she threw up again 3 times in quick succession. Our visitor hastily departed!! Poor Cass, like all flatcoat pups she was full of life, confident in her ability to tackle anything with an almost overwhelming exuberance. Now she felt awful, she trembled partly with chill and partly with fear. We nursed her all night. Next day she was like a rag doll, listless not wanting to eat or drink. She was giving up. Inspiration led to my husband 'playing' with her soft toy. At first no response, then a flicker of interest and finally she was back with us, a little shaky but definitely better. The next couple of days she was like a dog possessed - she'd wasted a day and had to make up for it, everything was done at breakneck speed.

Cass is now 6 months old. Has she changed? Yes, a bundle of energy greets us every morning. A flurry of black fur, a wiggle and a never-still tail are our constant companions. The garden has been redesigned. We've found new homes for the goldfish and the frogs have departed for safer havens. Each day new 'treasures' are brought to us by a joyous Cass while Peg looks on with dismay. Flower pots (with or without plants), stones, sticks, flower heads delicately plucked from their stalks and of course wet, deliciously smelly pond weed! As I write this Cass is sleeping on the sofa - she knows she shouldn't and she's waiting to be moved, but life's about pushing rules to the limit and as a flatcoat that is something at which she really excels.

Health Seminar to be held at Kirk Deighton, Nr Wetherby

Sunday 20th February 2000

Speakers: Mr. M. Ness.....Orthopaedics and Hips
Mr. P. E. Forster.....Acupuncture with demonstration
Ms. M. Kearney.....Homeopathy and herbal medicine
Mr. C. Hewison.....First Aid for Dogs

Name:

Address:

.....

Names of people attending:

Members.....

Non members.....

Price for seminar: £5.00 - members - £7.00 - non members

Total enclosed for Seminar £..... Cheques payable to "N.E.F.R.A."

Please Note: Lunch is not provided so please bring your own. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival, at lunchtime and before leaving

The tickets for this seminar will be allocated on a strict first come first served basis and can only be reserved on receipt of cheque. It would help us in the organisation of the day if you could apply early (closing date: 1st February 2000).

Cakes and raffle prizes would be appreciated.

Directions to the venue will be issued along with your tickets.

Please send **Entry Form, SAE and cheque** (made payable to NEFRA) to:
The Honorary Secretary, Mrs. A. R. Forster, Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane,
Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7HA

T A I L E N D E R S

Future Dates for your Diary

Seminar - Sunday, 20th February to be held at Kirk Deighton (near Wetherby, just off the A1); the main topic is to be health and a certificate will be issued to those attending (entry form enclosed)

A. G. M. - Sunday, 5th March - to be held at the Old Golf House, Outlane near Huddersfield (just off the M62).

Working Test - Saturday, 18th March - entry form enclosed

Working Training Day - t.b.a, April to be held at Tatton Park (subject to ground availability).

Open Show - Saturday, 6th May - to be held at Woodford, near Wilmslow, Cheshire

Fun Weekend - 10th & 11th June - To be held at Salmsesbury, near Preston

Working Test - Saturday 12th August - to be held at Weston

Seminar - 8th October - to be held at Ecclestone, near Preston

Open Show - Sunday 5th November - to be held at Normanton.

Forthcoming Open Shows in our area

Anyone wishing us to advertise their show should send full details as soon as possible and bear in mind that this newsletter is only published on a quarterly basis. Schedules for the following shows can be obtained from the respective secretaries:

- Matlock & District Canine Society (held at Alfreton) - Saturday 26th February - Judge Mr G Whiting (Spenbeck) - 4 classes - Sec: Mrs S Monaghan Tel: 0115 9278415
- Yorkshire Gundog Association (held at Huddersfield - Sunday 27th February - Judge Mr T Hargreaves (Forgeway) - 4 classes - Sec: Mrs. G. Earle Tel: 01535 646589
- Goyt Valley Gundog (held at Wyntenshaw) - Sunday 19th March - Judge Miss H Hughes - 4 classes - Sec Mr A Ryder Tel: 01663 743159
- Mountsorrel & District Canine Society (held at Whitwick, Leicestershire) - Sunday 26th March - Judge Mr R Emblen (Duntonwood) - 5 classes - Sec: Mr G A White Tel: 01530 244540

The Newsletter sub committee would greatly appreciate your "Letters to the Editor" or tips for the above section. These will be included in future newsletters as and when space is available. Please send them to Mrs. E. Whiting at the address below.

Items received from members and included in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

News Letter Sub Committee.

Mrs. K Jubb Thistledown House, 136 Loscoe Denby Lane, Denby Village, DE5 8PP Tel. 01773 741501

Mrs. D. Jury 103 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, S42 5NX Tel: 01246 853575

Mrs. K Trevor 120 Cross Street, Arnold, Nottingham. NG5 7BY Tel. 01159 939134

Mrs. D. White Woodhouse Cottage, Birkin, North Yorkshire, WF11 9LS Tel: 01757 228268

Mrs. E Whiting Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Rd, Mirfield, West Yorks WF14 9DS Tel: 01924 490741